than the previous gaming machine **10** of FIG. **1**, such a difference is considered insubstantial for purposes of the present invention. In fact, it is specifically contemplated that every inventive embodiment disclosed herein can be used in conjunction with all gaming machines of any shape or size, with appropriate adaptations or adjustments made as necessary. As in the previous example, gaming machine **50** includes a top box **111** and a main cabinet **112**, both of which have a number of features substantially similar to those found in the previous gaming machine, such as a primary video display monitor **126** and one or more speakers **132**.

[**0056**] Gaming machine **50** also includes one or more automatically configurable devices and/or portions, which will often be referred to herein as "configurable surfaces" or the like. Some such configurable surfaces are essentially peripheral auxiliary video display units in communication with one or more logic devices, such as the MGC or another processor. However, as discussed in detail below, in some embodiments of the invention, one or more configurable surfaces are formed of electronic paper or the like. In this example, main cabinet **112** features a configurable belly surface **125** and a configurable side surface **127**, instead of a traditional silk-screened or otherwise statically labeled belly glass and side glass. In addition, top box **111** features a configurable top surface **133** rather than a traditional silk-screened top glass or otherwise static label.

[**0057**] Although configurable surfaces are shown in three separate places here, it is specifically contemplated that fewer or more configurable surfaces can be used in any combination as desired in a given instance. Moreover, in some implementations of the invention, other locations on and about the gaming machine or other device can be adapted for use with a configurable surface. For example, one or more walls, a portion of a floor or ceiling, signs, etc., may include a configurable surface. In some such embodiments, a display indicated on such a configurable surface will correspond with a game theme, a group, a team etc. Such displays may also include audio and/or projected light, as described in more detail below. Furthermore, each configurable surface can vary in size and shape as needed to conform to whatever physical specifications may be necessary.

[**0058**] In some embodiments of the invention, at least one configurable surface comprises a video display device that can be used for presenting a potentially infinite assortment of visual displays, such as, for example, a main game, a copy of a main game, a bonus game, animated or static pictures or artwork including game related themes, video clips, advertisements, pay tables, other pertinent information and any other visual display presentation. The actual video display device can be selected from any of a number of different video display types, including, by way of example, any standard LED, LCD or CRT, a "thin" CRT, a high resolution flat-panel LCD, a plasma display, a field emission display, a digital micromirror device, and any other electronically controlled video monitor, as well as a hologram or any other three-dimensional projected imaging device. In addition, such a display device used as a configurable surface may be adapted for use as an input-accepting device, such as a touch screen, if desired. One example of such a touch screen or other interactive display device used in connection with a gaming machine is disclosed in commonly assigned and co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/139,801, by Winans, et al., filed May 3, 2002, and entitled "Light Emitting Interface Displays for a Gaming Machine," which application is incorporated herein in its entirety and for all purposes.

[**0059**] Each configurable surface may also comprise or be associated with one or more additional speakers, microprocessors or other electronic components, as discussed in greater detail below. For example, in embodiments wherein electronic paper or the like is used as a configurable surface, one or more speakers may be positioned behind the configurable surface. In some such embodiments, at least a portion of the speaker itself may be formed from, or at least covered by, electronic paper.

[**0060**] Unlike the secondary or other auxiliary gaming machine video displays disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 6,315,666, some preferred embodiments of configurable surfaces in the present invention are not event-driven media-slave type devices that require a substantial amount of separate and independent memory or storage. Rather, each configurable surface is preferably media-driven, such that all presented images and other display materials are not permanently stored on the configurable surface, but instead are delivered by a logic device to the configurable surface for display. In this manner, it is not necessary for a configurable surface to have a substantial amount of associated ROM, flash RAM, dynamic RAM or other associated electronic storage, as would be required for an event-driven, media-slave video display device. Because such a configurable surface is media-driven rather than event-driven, it is also unnecessary for a controlling MGC or other associated logic device to regularly communicate state information and event commands to the configurable surface. In fact, in one embodiment it is specifically contemplated that a given static image substantially resembling a traditional silk-screened glass be sent one time to a configurable surface by an associated logic device, whereupon that static image is stored in the configurable surface by a relatively small flash RAM or dynamic RAM unit, and then repeatedly displayed on the configurable surface, thus becoming a virtual silk-screened image. When electronic paper is used to form a configurable surface, such a static images does not need to be displayed repeatedly, because the display state is stable even if power is removed.

[**0061**] Turning now to FIG. **3**, a block diagram of an exemplary electronic component infrastructure for generating and controlling video displays in and around a gaming machine according to one embodiment of the present invention is illustrated. Configurable surface display system **100**, which generally resides within and/or about gaming machine **50**, comprises a plurality of components, each of which are separate and distinct from the primary CPU or MGC **101**. Such a primary CPU or MGC **101** can be, for example, a model i960 type of CPU, manufactured by Intel Corporation of Santa Clara, Calif., which model is present in many gaming machines manufactured by IGT of Reno, Nev., such as many of those under the Game King and Vision labels, as well as various other electronic gaming machines.

[**0062**] In fact, i960 type and similar types and variations of CPUs are present in many types of electronic gaming machines, and inclusion of not only i960s but all types and variations of CPUs are contemplated for use in the present